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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/037,512	01/04/2002	Edward Francis Farina	DCS-9146	6290
34500	7590	03/01/2004	EXAMINER	
DADE BEHRING INC. LEGAL DEPARTMENT 1717 DEERFIELD ROAD DEERFIELD, IL 60015			QUAN, ELIZABETH S	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1743	

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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APPLICATION NO./ CONTROL NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR / PATENT IN REEXAMINATION	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
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EXAMINER

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**Commissioner for Patents**

The prior art cited on PTO-1449 received on 4/29/2002 and 6/11/2003 has been reviewed and does not fairly teach or suggest the claimed invention. The claimed invention requires an aloquot vessel array for containing a plurality of liquid patient samples in test wells. The array comprises a base plate with a pair of mutually parallel sidewalls extending upwardly from the upper surface of the base plate and zero-backlash hitch formed therein, pair of parallel rails depending downwardly from the base plate with each rail having a foot section at its lower extremity, array of open test wells formed on the base plate extending upwardly therefrom and confined between the pair of sidewalls, and sidewalls attached to the array of wells by a number of notched side flanges having a notch adapted to mate with the foot section of the rail. U.S. Patent No. 6,534,015 to Viot et al. do not disclose open test wells formed on the base plate and extending upwardly from the base plate. U.S. Patent No. 5,110,556 to Lyman et al. do not disclose an array of open test wells formed on or integral with the base plate since it has no base plate and a foot section or projection at the bottom of the rail. U.S. Patent No. 6,098,819 to Link, U.S. Patent No. 6,118,582 to Del Buono, and U.S. Patent No. 6,513,675 to Brown do not disclose a pair of rails separate from the pair of sidewalls and an array of open test wells formed on the base plate extending upwardly therefrom. For instance, the wells are holes within the plate, such that they do not extend upwardly from the plate. U.S. Patent No. 5,662,676 to Lind and U.S. Patent No. 5,642,816 to Kelly et al. do not disclose parallel sidewalls attached to the array of open wells by a number of notched side flanges having a notch adapted to mate with the foot section of a rail.

  
Jill Warden  
Supervisory Patent Examiner  
Technology Center 1700